

REMARKS

SUMMARY OF THE OFFICE ACTION

Prior to this amendment, Claims 1-33 were pending in the application.

The Office Action includes a restriction to one of the following two inventions under 35 U.S.C. 121:

I. Claims 1-16 and 24-31, drawn to a system, method and program product for sharing or implementing an instant messaging environment, classified in class 709, subclasses 205-206

II. Claims 17-23 and 32-33, drawn to a system, method and program product for processing a user interface command in an instant messaging application, classified in class 709, subclass 250.

RESPONSE TO THE OFFICE ACTION - ELECTION FOR RESTRICTION

In response to the restriction requirement of the January 26, 2005 Office Action, Applicant elects the claims of **Group I** (Claims 1-16 and 24-31) for further prosecution. In view of the examiner's restriction requirement, Applicant retains the right to present claims 17-23 and 32-33 in a divisional application.

CONCLUSION

By this amendment, no claims are canceled and no claims are added. Hence, Claims 1-33 are pending in the application, with Claims 1-16 and 24-31 under consideration.

The Applicant believes that all issues raised in the Office Action have been addressed and that allowance of the pending claims is appropriate.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is believed that such contact would further the examination of the present application.

For the reasons set forth above, it is respectfully submitted that all of the pending claims are now in condition for allowance. Therefore, the issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance is believed next in order, and that action is most earnestly solicited.

To the extent necessary to make this reply timely filed, the Applicant petitions for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136.

If any applicable fee is missing or insufficient, throughout the pendency of this application, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to any applicable fees and to credit any overpayments to our Deposit Account No. 50-1302.

Respectfully submitted,
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Date: February 11, 2005

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Mail Stop AMENDMENT, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

on February 11, 2005 by

